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ADMINISTRATION'S PLANS TO FORCE HUGE DEBT ON TAXPAYERS IS DISCLOSED

Tax Board, Shorn of Authority, Will Levy Only Tentative Rate, on Assumption That Needed Funds Will Be Raised By Bond Issues.

In Event of Defeat of Bonds By Popular Vote, Board of Apportionment Will Levy Tremendous Rate to Get Extra Cash For Huge Expenditures.

Details of the administration's plans to plunge the city into a debt that will be visited upon the grandchildren of the present generation became known today.

The board of apportionment and taxation has its orders to levy a rate of taxes of not more than 18 mills, if that be possible, and not more than 19 unless the situation is most desperate.

The advisory committee of seven members, named by Mayor Wilson to arrange a bonding program, has instructions to include as projects for bonds, everything that by any stretch of the imagination may be considered as permanent improvements.

Discussion has arisen between the advisory committee and the board of apportionment and taxation, the feeling too, has grown up in the tax board, those who are inclined to how to the supposedly superior wisdom of the bonding committee, and those who are inclined to act upon their own initiative. And in the bonding committee itself there is discussion. With affairs in the city, the administration's great debt program may be badly upset, but without grave danger of the city's being plunged into a financial straits of proportions beyond all former speculation.

Here is what the taxpayers must do, if the administration's plans are carried through:

They must vote favorably upon the bonding projects.

They must pay a tax rate higher than ever before in the city's history.

In the alternative of the defeat of the bonding projects, at a special election to be held in the early spring this situation will arise:

The board of apportionment and taxation will be reconvened and asked to levy a rate of taxes on a new tax rate, the funds for improvements that are essential, such as schoolhouses and the like. The first rate, based upon the assumption that bonds shall be issued, will be abrogated in favor of the increased rate, and the taxpayers will then be forced to meet an emergency of tremendous proportions.

If it is necessary to call in the board of apportionment to lay a special tax for all improvements which the administration plans, a tax rate of 25 mills and possibly more, in what large realty holders and business men look for.

The plans of the administration to increase the taxes of business men, manufacturers and the taxes on centrally located properties which have not changed hands in the past decade, are well known. But even this big boost in revenues may be taken to bring the income desired.

There are members of the board of apportionment who resent the action of the administration in appointing the advisory bonding issue. They are also several members of the advisory tax board who are not in sympathy with creating a big bond issue. Most of the special committee were named, however, because they would be interested in such large expenditures.

Some of the members of the board of apportionment who are conservative business men declare that the plans of the administration means a juggling of the finances which will be absolutely dangerous to the property holders. There is already nearly a huge blanket mortgage on the city of Bridgeport, and the administration is now nearly a million dollars for Warren, bridges, pavements, etc. The proposal to increase this by \$1,500,000 means an enormous increase in the tax rate within another year no matter what juggling is resorted to to keep the rate down this year. Under the proposed bond issue every property holder is made liable and the home of the humblest may be taken to pay principal and interest for the bonded indebtedness.

The Remington Arms & Ammunition Co. has spent or will spend approximately \$150,000 in constructing sewers from its new plant above Boston avenue and from the new property it is developing east of Hospital hill. The administration proposes as part of the bond issue that this money be paid back to the company this year. Members of the board of apportionment point out that individual property owners all over the city build private sewers and it is often 10

UNPARALLELED GROWTH OF NATIONAL BANKS IS REPORTED TO CONGRESS

Comptroller Williams Asks For Legislation Which Will Effectually Stamp Out Widespread Practice of Usury in Banking Institutions—Would Broaden Comptroller's Authority.

Washington, Jan. 10.—"Development and growth never paralleled in the financial history of any country," is the way John Skelton Williams, Comptroller of the Currency describes in his annual report to Congress, the operation of the national banks under his charge, during the period from October, 1914, to November, 1915, the first year under the Federal Reserve system. The report was today presented to Congress.

Mr. Williams gives a comparative statement of the condition of the national banks to back up his statement. He shows that net resources of the banks increased in the year \$1,743,878,648, that deposits increased \$2,081,530,144 and that loans and discounts increased \$317,450,502. Available cash increased in the same period \$862,000,000 and on Nov. 10, 1915, the reporting national banks had excess reserves of \$391,000,000. Tables show the comparative condition of banks in 1915 and 1916. In September, 1915, there were 3,712 reporting banks with net deposits of \$1,939,300,000 and loans and discounts of \$2,059,408,402 while in November, 1915, there were 7,617 reporting banks with net deposits of \$9,679,471,447, loans and discounts of \$7,239,925,973.

The reserves held by the national banks Nov. 10, 1915, says the report, "exceeded by \$537,000,000 the greatest reserves ever held at any time prior to the passage of the Federal Reserve act. Loans and discounts amounted to more than the total loans and discounts of all banks, including national, state, savings and private banks and loan and trust companies—as late as the year 1912."

Williams says that the "banking power" of the United States—the capital surplus, circulation deposits, etc.—of all reporting banks, national and otherwise with an estimate of the figures for non-reporting banks, amounted in June, 1915, to \$25,397,000,000.

Philadelphians, Jan. 10.—Three men were killed and a number injured in an explosion of smokeless powder early today at the plant of the Dupont Powder Co. at Carney's Point, N. J. It had been reported that a large number of men had lost their lives but after an investigation the superintendent of the plant said that only three were dead and possibly four.

The cause of the explosion is not known but according to the superintendent there is no suspicion that the blast was due to outside agencies. The report that arrests had been made was denied.

WITNESSES DECLARE SILVER WORKERS IN MERIDEN HAVE BEEN PEACEABLE IN STRIKE

New Haven, Jan. 10.—The hearing by Judge James H. Webb of the superior court, on the petition of the International Silver company for an injunction to restrain its former employees who went on strike from interfering with its business was resumed today. The petitioners having closed their side on Thursday, C. J. Danaher, of Meriden, counsel for the many respondent organizations and individuals, began calling witnesses to contradict assertions made by witnesses for the petitioners.

Mr. Danaher said that he had three score or more witnesses available but he did not know at the outset how many he would call. He expected to

show by his witnesses that the strike in Wallingford and Meriden is being conducted through peaceful picketing, that there is no intimidation of persons who are working and who are seeking work.

More than a dozen witnesses were put on by the defendants during the forenoon, the substance of their testimony being that conditions in Wallingford and Meriden had been peaceable and orderly despite the strike. The only exception in Meriden, according to the testimony of Patrolman Hermon Shearer, of that city, was on the night of Dec. 14, last, when the outbreak occurred after the silver company had brought into the city two truck loads of strike breakers.

President Yuan Shi-Kai of China is reported to be seriously ill, having suffered a stroke of apoplexy.

HOLD MAN WHO SLEW COMRADE WITHOUT BONDS

Case Continued in City Court Awaiting Finding of Coroner Phelan.

PRISONER SAYS HE HAD PROVOCATION Deeply Religious, Declares Lord Will Yield Him Heavenly Honors.

As a result of the duel with horse-shoes between negroes in the blacksmith shop of Christopher Rickard on Howard avenue Saturday morning, which caused the death of James Nixon, aged 60, his assailant, John Henry Coleman, aged 51½, is held without bonds, awaiting trial on the charge of murder. In city court this morning the case was continued until Saturday and Coleman was remanded to the county jail.

The original charge placed against Coleman was assault with intent to kill and bonds were fixed at \$5,000. Upon the death of Nixon the charge was changed to murder and no bonds will be accepted for his release.

Coroner John J. Phelan held an inquest into the death in his office in the county court building at 4 o'clock this afternoon. At that time Joseph Collins of 1126 Railroad avenue and George Lake of 1148 Railroad avenue, will be arraigned to give testimony that will show the real cause of the assault, which proved fatal. Two other blacksmiths who, Coleman claims, witnessed the encounter will also be summoned, although they have denied to the police any knowledge of the affair. Their names have not been divulged.

When Coleman was arraigned of the death of Nixon today he said he was sorry of the outcome but that it had to be. He was then asked what he thought the Lord would think of him. He answered in the following manner: "Well, I am a true son of Zion and am on my way to Heaven. When the matter is discussed this morning before the throne of the Almighty, I am sure our Good Lord will turn to the Angel Gabriel and say: 'Gabriel, my worthy son, John Henry Coleman has held down the line for me in which the Father is well pleased. Inscribe his name on the Good Book in letters of gold and when I see John Henry Coleman on the last day I shall reward him for defending himself in such an upright manner.'"

Nixon had been in the employ of Rickard for 12 years. Coleman has been there only a year. Nixon had been married twice but it is said that he had no children. He lived with his brother-in-law, Herbert M. Reid, at 1054 Railroad avenue. The assault of Saturday was the outcome of a long argument between them and was brought on by Nixon's treatment of animals, according to Coleman.

FAIRFIELD MEN PLAN EXPENSIVE IMPROVEMENTS

To Build Boulevard to Beach and Better Harbor at Southport.

(Special to The Farmer.) Fairfield, Jan. 10.—Grasping the opportunity presented by the boom in this section, D. H. Warner, Samuel H. Wheeler, the Sage Hill club and other public-spirited citizens are organizing a committee to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars during next spring to improve Fairfield and vicinity.

With the reported purchase of the Boland residence, at the foot of Fairfield avenue and Broad street, it has transpired that work is well under way on a 100 foot boulevard that will run parallel to Fairfield avenue and Broad street to the beach. On this boulevard, which is planned to have two roadways with a tree-shaded path in the center and sidewalks on each side, 1,000 dogwood trees will be set out.

The adjoining property has been laid out in large building sites upon which restrictions will be placed. It is planned to have houses only of the most sumptuous character.

A survey of Fairfield extension from Broad street to Saco hill will be begun. A wide street is planned, a place of the narrow roadway with a 50 foot strip of pavement a mile and a half. The expense is to be borne by the Saco Hill club and will make a direct route from Fairfield to the new club house, on which building work will be begun early this spring.

Dredges are already working at the foot of the hill in Southport harbor, opening a deep and wide harbor for the anchorage of the largest private yachts. It is planned to accommodate the ocean going yachts of the many New York members who are not accommodated sufficiently at any yacht club along the Connecticut coast between Greenwich and New London.

BRIDGEPORTER HELD AS COUNTERFEITER GETS POSTPONEMENT

New Haven, Jan. 10.—Ferdinand Crutcher, arrested last week in Bridgeport charged with passing alleged fraudulent Italian banknotes, at Watertown, N. Y., had his case continued before Federal Commissioner Wright, until Jan. 18, today. The request for delay was made by the United States district attorney. The bond was continued at \$1,000.

EIGHT HOUR DAY FOR MACHINISTS SOON UNIVERSAL

Business Agent of Bridgeport Local Says Summer Will Bring Changes.

BRIDGEPORT LOCAL HAS 2,600 MEMBERS

International Association of Machinists Stronger Than Ever, Now.

This summer will see machinists and allied workmen of all kinds pouring out of the shops where the eight hour day and unsatisfactory working conditions are in force, according to George J. Bowen, business agent of Local No. 30 of the International Association of Machinists in this city.

"They can't stop them now," said Mr. Bowen. "When the sun gets high in the sky, there's no telling how many will come out."

"I won't have to depend on an organized movement. The men will come out of their own accord, because they know conditions are bad, that they can be remedied, and that the same or worse conditions were remedied in other places."

"Bridgeport isn't ruined, as the manufacturers predicted. The eight hour day is still in force and Bridgeport is one of the most prosperous cities in the United States."

The International Association of Machinists is better prepared than ever throughout the country, to back up the demands of its men. Especially in this in Bridgeport, where a labor defense fund has been started and more than \$1,000 has already been obtained.

The shops in Bridgeport that haven't given the eight hour day probably will feel the effects of a strike. The local here has 2,600 members now and it is expected it will be divided into two locals.

POLICEMEN HURT IN BATTLE WITH STRIKE RIOTERS

Disorders Follow Walk-out By Thousand Workers at Niagara Falls.

Niagara Falls, N. Y., Jan. 10.—Rioting followed a strike of a thousand employees of the American Aluminum Co. here today. The strikers stormed the plant. The police fired their revolvers in the air and attacked the crowd with nightsticks.

Several policemen were slightly injured and four Poles were taken to the hospital with battered heads. The men had asked for an increase in wages.

ATTORNEY GENERAL PLANS NEW MOVE IN RAILROAD CASE

Washington, Jan. 10.—The course of the department of justice in the New Haven case will be determined within a few days, Attorney General Gregory said today. Other officials of the department of justice are of the opinion that a new trial will be begun within a short time.

LIGGINS AND FARMER SUE HOTEL COMPANY BECAUSE OF ROBBERY

Two suits were filed against the Bridgeport Hotel Co., operating the Atlantic hotel in this city as the result of recent robberies alleged to have been committed there.

Attachments against funds of the hotel company deposited in the Connecticut National bank were made today by Sheriff Thomas Cunningham in the names of Alfred J. Liggins, manager of the Chamber Lewis billiard parlors, living on East Main street and John Farmer, an employee of the Remington Arms & Ammunition Co., living in Remingtonville.

In the Liggins complaint, alleging loss of \$150, which is similar in all respects to that made by Farmer in asking damages for the loss of \$15 it is set forth that payment of claims should be made under the new statute of 1915 which specifies that hotel companies are responsible for the loss of valuable belonging to guests up to \$100, even though the guest may not elect to deposit them in the hotel safe when retiring. This is the first claim to be made under the new act.

The complaint further recites that both Liggins and Farmer were assigned to a room in the hotel on the night of Dec. 25, that during their sleep the room was entered by means of a key and that \$128 in bills and \$2 in silver were abstracted from the pockets of Liggins. It is alleged that \$15 was likewise taken from Farmer's clothing. It is understood that the suits instituted today through Attorney George Mara will be contested by the hotel company.

RHEUMATIC COLLAPSES

Stricken with rheumatic pains about the hips and the chest O. U. Young, aged 45, of 198 Prospect street, collapsed on the sidewalk at Prospect and Lafayette streets at 8 o'clock this morning. He was removed to Bridgeport hospital in the emergency hospital ambulance.

BRITISH FORCES IN MESOPOTAMIA IN GRAVE PERIL

Completely Surrounded By Turks in Overwhelming Numbers, Says Berlin Report—Troopship is Reported Lost in Gallipoli Withdrawal—New Commander For British Army at Kut-El-Amara is Announced.

Berlin, Jan. 10.—The sinking of a transport ship of the allies, filled with troops, at the time of the withdrawal of the French and British forces from the tip of the Gallipoli peninsula, is reported in Constantinople despatches given out today by the Overseas News Agency.

British Army Reported Surrounded Berlin, Jan. 10.—The British army at Kut-El-Amara, in Mesopotamia, has now been surrounded completely by the Turks, according to Constantinople advices given out today by the Overseas News Agency.

It is said Turks have advanced to the main defenses of the British.

The main British army in Mesopotamia, according to these advices, is in retreat, 10,000 men having been left in Kut-El-Amara to cover the movement.

BERNSTORFF IN "SECRET" CONFERENCE

German Ambassador and Secretary Lansing Discuss Lusitania Case—No Word Yet on Nationality of Vessel That Sunk "Persia."

Washington, Jan. 10.—Count Von Bernstorff, the German ambassador, and Secretary Lansing, had another conference in the Lusitania negotiations today which both agreed should be described as confidential. The ambassador expects to confer with the secretary again inside of a week and not again on the subject.

Officials in all quarters described the situation as "hopeful" and expressed the belief that a satisfactory settlement is in sight that will include indemnities for the 115 American lives lost and some expression of regret or disavowal which will be mutually satisfactory to Germany and the United States.

President Wilson, Secretary Lansing and the German ambassador are practically the only officials in the secret of the negotiations.

The impression grows among administration officials that the nationality of the submarine or mine which sank the Persia never will be disclosed. American Consul Kelling, at Malta, today advised the state with the fact that no new facts concerning the destruction of the steamship Persia were contained in affidavits he had taken from some survivors, including Lord Montague, who had landed there. The survivors were unanimous in saying that although the officers of the ship were watching for submarines, none was seen and no warning was given.

FREDERICK RHODES TO BE NAMED FOR CITY'S TAX BOARD

Will Succeed Jarvis Williams, Jr., If He'll Accept Appointment.

Frederick Rhodes will be named by Mayor Wilson to succeed Jarvis Williams, Jr., on the board of apportionment and taxation if he will accept the place. Mr. Rhodes has the matter under consideration now and if he accepts the announcement of his appointment will be made later in the week.

Mr. Rhodes is the secretary of the Sals Textile Co. He is a Republican and resides at 15 Noble avenue in the Ninth district. The first meeting of the board of apportionment for business will be held Tuesday afternoon, Jan. 25, when City Auditor Keating will make his report.

POST OFFICE NOTES.

It is requested that the local Internal Revenue office that all who are required to file emergency tax forms, fill them out before bringing or sending them to the office. It is likewise requested that all names and addresses be fully and plainly written on the forms, otherwise they will be returned later from Hartford.

THE WEATHER

Rain and warmer tonight, Tuesday rain. Moderate to fresh southwest gales.

The following despatch, under date of Constantinople, was given out by the news agency:

"The Milli Agency states that the Turks were making preparations for three days for the attack on the British and French, and that the results are not yet fully known. All the positions of the enemy near Seddul Bahir and Tekke Burnu were occupied by the Turks, nine cannon being captured. Turkish artillery sank an enemy transport filled with soldiers. An enormous amount of booty was captured."

British Lose 3,000 Amsterdam, Jan. 10.—A British force which apparently was on the way to reinforce the British at Kut-El-Amara on the Tigris river, lost 3,000 men in an attack on Turkish positions at Sheikh Sadi, according to a semi-official announcement received here today from Constantinople.

New Commander Named London, Jan. 10.—Sir Percy Lake has been appointed to command the British forces in Mesopotamia in succession to General Sir John Dill, who has been compelled by ill-health to return home. It was announced in the House of Commons today by J. Austen Chamberlain, secretary for India.

Recent despatches have indicated that the British expedition in Mesopotamia was confronted by Turkish forces of superior size and that it would have difficulty in maintaining itself at Kut-El-Amara. The defenses of the city in fact, were attacked by the Turks some time ago, resulting in severe fighting, but the British were able to repulse the assaults.

The retreat from Kut-El-Amara, assuming the correctness of the unofficial advice from Berlin, apparently means the abandonment by the British of any attempt for the present at least, of an offensive campaign in Mesopotamia. It was in November of 1914 that an Anglo-Indian force, starting from the Persian gulf, began marching north and west over the desert, following the Tigris and Euphrates rivers wherever possible.

The fighting was slow and exhausting. In September of 1915, the British reached Kut-El-Amara. They defeated the Turks there and advanced to Ctesiphon, 18 miles below Baghdad.

The Turks sent up large forces and won a victory over the invaders. The British fell back on Kut-El-Amara.

Change Pay Day At Remington Arms Co. Pay day at the Remington Arms & Ammunition Co. has been changed from Friday as heretofore to Monday. In consequence of this change, thousands of employees were happy today and several hundred clerks who heretofore have been compelled to work through the day on Monday, today are joyful. Under the present system they have Saturday afternoons and Sunday if necessary in which to complete the work on time cards.

Unknown Man Is Found Drowned off Fayerweather's Island

William Dietrich of 187 Howard avenue and John Bragg of 367 Boston street, while fishing claims on Fayerweather's Island, shortly before noon today discovered the body of an unknown man floating face downward off the eastern end of the island.

They secured it with a rope and towed it to the foot of South avenue. There they reported the finding at the office of the West End plant of the Crane Co.

Special Policeman Joseph Zsuevsky took charge of the body and notified Lieut. Garry Sanger of the 3rd Precinct station. Medical Examiner S. M. Garlick after an examination ordered the corpse removed to Cullinan & Mullins morgue in Main street. The drowned man is about 45 years of age and of dark complexion. He wore a dark suit, dark overcoat, white shirt, collar and tie and well made shoes. The body had been in the water but a short time. It is believed he is either a Pole or a Hungarian.

JUDGE GEORGE NOYES DEAD

Milwaukee, Jan. 10.—Judge George Noyes, 67, died suddenly at Clearwater, Fla., according to a telegram received here today.